Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4192

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 5445

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS SN

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT RELEASES T.T. RAJAH AND SEVEN OTHER POLI-

TICAL DETAINEES

1. ON DEC. 12 THE GOS RELEASED LAWYER T.T. RAJAH AND SEVEN OTHERS WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT SINCE JUNE 1974. ACCORDING TO A GOS STATEMENT, ALL EIGHT HAD SUPPORTED AND/OR PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) AND ITS SATELLITE ORGANIZATIONS PRIOR TO ARREST. GOS EXPLAINED THAT THE EIGHT "NO LONGER POSE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF SINGAPORE. NEARLY ALL OF THEM HAVE RECANTED THEIR PAST INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES."

- 2. THE RELEASED DETAINEES ARE CHAN SUN CHAI, HAN TIN JUAN, (MISS) LEONG QUEE FAH, TAN KIM KHEY, TAY KIAN HUAT, WANG AH SYE, LOH WENG KIANG AND T.T. RAJAH. APPARENTLY ALL EXCEPT RAJAH RECANTED THEIR PAST INVOLVEMENT WITH CPM. RAJAH TOLD THE PRESS AFTER RELEASE THAT "I HAVE NOT RECANTED AND THERE IS NOTHING TO RECANT". HE STATED THAT HIS POLITICAL CONVICTIONS HAD BEEN "STEELED AND STRENGTHENED" BY DETENTION.
- 3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RAJAH, THE DETAINEES WERE RELEASED ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY REMAIN IN SINGAPORE, INFORM GOS OF ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDRESS CHANGE, REFRAIN FROM INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

AND REFRAIN FROM ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER EX-DETAINEES EXCEPT IN CONTEXT OF GOS-SPONSORED EX-DETAINEES ASSOCIATION. RAJAH WAS RELEASED ON ONLY ONE CONDITION- THAT HE REFRAIN FROM INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT RAJAH IS "OVER THE HILL" AND IS NO LONGER TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY GOS AS AN OPPOSITION LEADER. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SINGAP05445

Document Number: 1975SINGAP05445 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D750443-0188

From: SINGAPORE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751223/aaaaaucd.tel Line Count: 69

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: MorefiRH

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22 JUL 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: GOVERNMENT RELEASES T.T. RAJAH AND SEVEN OTHER POLI- TICAL DETAINEES TAGS: PINS, SN, (RAJAH, T T)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006